RECOMMENDED TREES

for home planting in your area ...

FLORIDA DIVISION OF FORESTRY
DISTRICTS 1–9

TREES IN THE LANDSCAPE

Trees in the landscape provide scale, framing, screening or privacy, modify climate, reduce glare, diminish air and noise pollution, and make the environment more pleasant and more healthful.

Deciduous trees shade in summer and let in warming winter sun when their leaves are gone. Trees also cool through the process of evaporation. A single, properly watered tree can have an estimated cooling effect of more than a million BTU's, exceeding the output rating of many room air conditioners.

Tree leaves and twigs capture airborne dust and dirt particles and hold them for the next rain to wash away. The result is cleaner air.

The human comfort level for noise is between 35 and 40 decibels, yet noise of street traffic often registers 70 or even 90 decibels. A dense strip planting of trees 100 feet wide along a busy roadway can block out up to 60% of traffic noise.

Decide what you want your planting of trees to accomplish, then choose the tree species that can best do the job in the climate and soil you have.

TREES IN THE WRONG PLACE

A tree in the wrong place can interfere with utility lines, break up pavement of sidewalks, driveways and patios; clog drains or sewer lines; dangerously screen traffic signs, driveways or oncoming automobile traffic; limit access to buildings or block the free flow of air, creating stagnant, humid conditions around house and garden.

WHAT TREES CAN IN THE LANDSCAP

On the following pages are some uses for trees in the landscape. Choose the ones you need, then check the list in the next section for a selection of appropriate trees suited to your section of Florida. As you make your choices, keep in mind tree size at maturity. Allow room for proper growth and don't overwhelm the home you set out to beautify.

SPECIMEN TREES are prima donnas that set the theme of a landscape, dominating prime locations by virtue of their size, form, showy blossoms or fruit. Usually a specimen tree occupies an isolated position near the front of the home grounds, but they may also be planted in clusters of odd numbers, and used wherever their unique beauty can be shown to proper advantage.

SHADE TREES do just that, providing relief from summer sun and cooling the air beneath. By reducing the heat load on buildings, they allow air conditioning to operate more efficiently and economically, saving energy and dollars. If the warmth of sun in winter would be welcome, choose a deciduous tree.

FRAMING TREES are used to "bracket" or frame elements such as buildings in the landscape picture. They do this without drawing too much attention to themselves and are usually medium-sized, most often evergreen, and without particularly showy characteristics of fruit, flower or foliage. Well located, groups of framing trees give perspective and scale to property and provide a background for other plantings.

BORDER TREES are special framing trees, used to delimit or enclose spaces. They may demarcate the whole property, or segregate various sections set aside for special uses – recreation, or pool areas, utility yards, etc.

PATIO TREES are usually small, and serve to accent (and shade in summer) outdoor living areas. They must do well in confined areas and have roots which will not damage surrounding pavement or other surfacing. Select trees with interesting flowers, foliage and branch structure, since they will be viewed at close range. Avoid trees that shed messy fruits or burrs or drip sap.

TROPICAL EFFECT TREES add a south Florida flavor to landscaping. They have the exotic look popular with many Florida home owners. They may serve as specimen trees, framing trees, patio trees, etc., depending on their individual characteristics.

STREET TREES are a very important part of the community landscape. They help tie together many individual landscapes of a neighborhood, shade parks, sidewalks and bus stops, or add softness and human scale to the hard surfaces, large masses and angular lines of business and commercial areas of the city. They may be small or tall, as their setting demands, but they should be long-lived, resistant to diseases, insects, and air pollution, and require as little maintenance as possible. Where they must share space with utility lines, street lights and the like, they must be chosen and planted so they do not interfere with the operation of these utilities.

MEDIAN TREES are a type of street tree that must fit into the confined space between roadways for foot or vehicular traffic. They must not dangerously obstruct vision or in any way hinder traffic movement. They also must grow in restricted root space and be able to endure a certain amount of air pollution.

PLANTING A TREE

Bare-root seedling trees, especially those that are deciduous, are best planted in their dormant season. Some tropical species grow all year, so this does not apply to them.

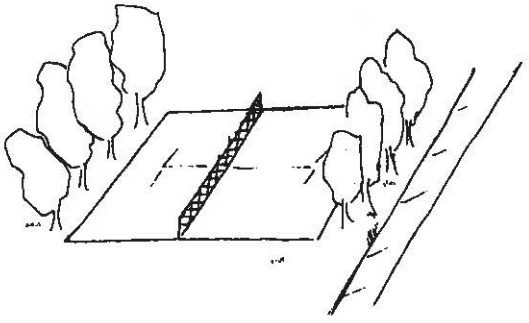
Container grown stock may be planted at any time of the year.

As a rule, trees of small size (trunk no more than 2 inches in diameter), have a better chance of survival than large trees. Properly planted and cared for, they will usually produce a stronger, better shaped tree than large trees which experience severe pruning and root loss in transplanting.

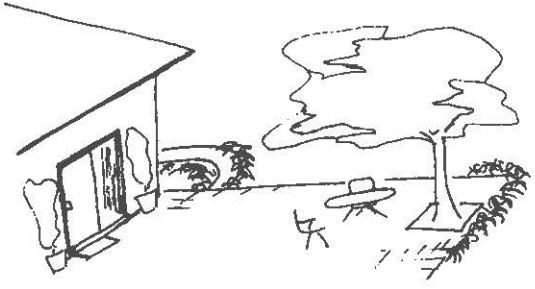
SPECIMEN TREE

FRAMING TREES

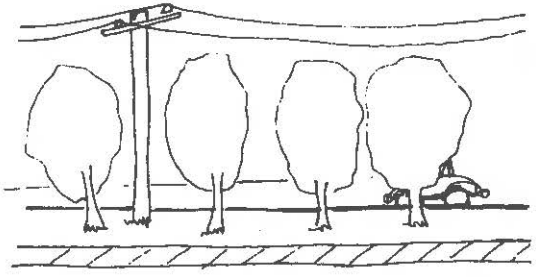
SHADE TREE



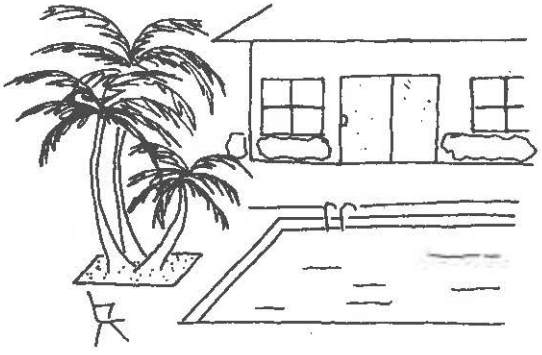
BORDER TREES



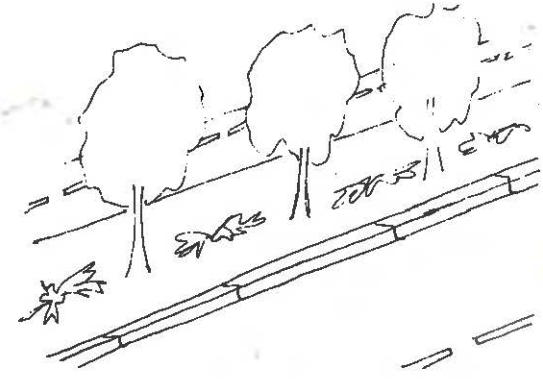
PATIO TREE



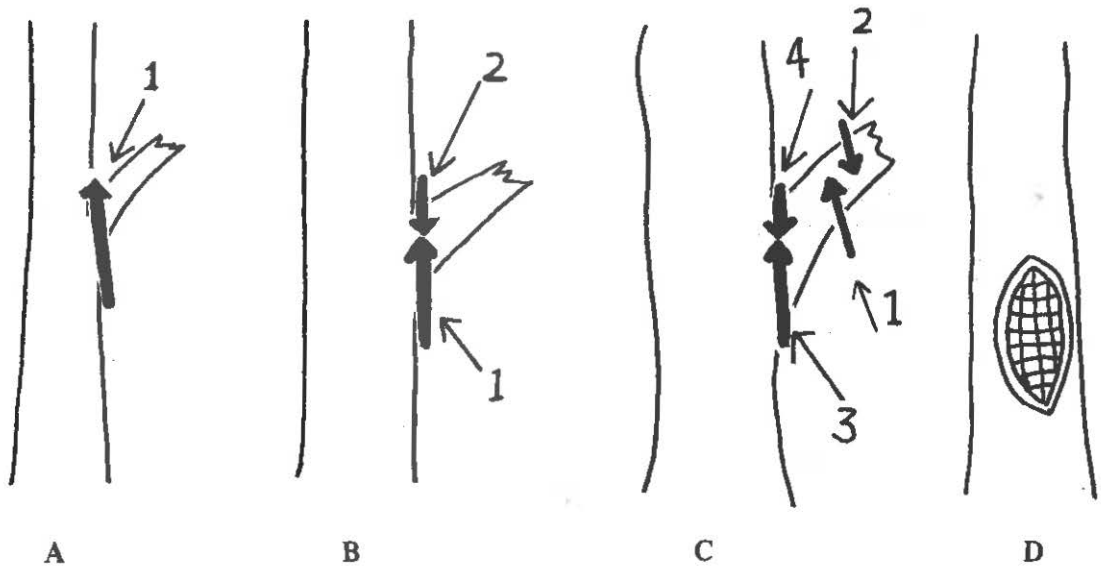
STREET TREES



TROPICAL TREE



MEDIAN TREES



Proper pruning of limbs and treatment of the wound that results is essential to maintain tree health, prevent infections of diseases, infestation by certain insects, improve appearance and prevent serious damage to life and property.

PRUNING AND WOUND SHAPING METHODS

A. Small branches up to two inches in diameter can be removed by sawing (1) as indicated in diagram A.
B. To prevent accidental stripping of the bark below the limb, however, it is better to undercut (1) and then overcut (2) as shown in diagram B.
C. When large limbs are pruned (diagram C), undercut (1) and overcut (2) the main portion of the limb approximately 1 to 2 feet out from the trunk. Then undercut (3) and overcut (4) next to the trunk.
D. If bark stripping occurs, shape the wound by removing as much damaged and undamaged bark as necessary, as indicated in diagram D.

The final pruning cuts should be as smooth and as flush to the trunk as possible. If sharp edges, burrs, or splinters remain, cut them with a sharp knife. A special pruning saw is the most satisfactory tool; however, a carpenter's saw carefully used will do a good job. **DO NOT USE AN AXE** or other similar tool for pruning.

After pruning, the fresh wound should be treated with orange shellac next to the bark and the remainder of the wound with asphalt-type tree pruning paint. Several applications of pruning paint will probably be necessary before the callus tissue covers the wound, particularly when large limbs are removed.

When pine limbs are pruned, no pruning paint is necessary, since enough gum will be exuded to seal the wound.

Pruning may be done at any time during the year, although the scars will heal over more rapidly after early spring pruning. It is important to treat the wound as soon as possible after pruning, regardless of the time of year. Pruned roots should be treated in the same manner as limbs.

NOTE:
Simple bark scrapes caused by vehicles or during construction can be treated in much the same manner as pruning wounds, if done soon after happening or before extensive rot has occurred. Trim damaged bark, splinters, and burrs and shape wound as indicated in diagram D. Treat edges next to bark with orange shellac and the rest of the wound with asphalt-type tree pruning paint.

Old branch stubs can also be pruned flush with the tree and the wound shaped as indicated in diagram D.

FERTILIZER

Most established trees on residential properties will benefit from fertilizer applications if applied properly and in correct amounts. Because the value of the average homesite is increased by the presence of shade trees, the homeowner is justified in making the small expenditure of money and time required for adequate tree feeding. Healthy, vigorous trees not only grow better, but are more beautiful, produce better shade, and are often much better able to resist the attacks of insects, diseases, and other natural and man-made disasters.

Trees utilize fertilizer components through their roots, primarily the small feeder rootlets. Consequently, the nutrients supplied must be made available for easy assimilation. The hole or punch-bar method is one of the best for applying fertilizer to shade trees. The holes should be approximately 12" to 18" deep, 1" to 2" in diameter, 2 feet apart, and extend about 2 feet past the drip line of the tree's outermost branches.

FERTILIZER HOLE LOCATION

Surface applications of fertilizer may be made when open soil is present under trees, although for satisfactory results the fertilizer must be chopped into the soil and then thoroughly watered. Surface applications, especially on heavier soils, may tend to stimulate a shallow root system that will be more susceptible to damage during periods of drought. In south Florida, where soils are very sandy and rainfall is high, surface applications on sod have given very satisfactory results.

To determine the amount of fertilizer to use, measure the tree four feet above the ground and apply annually one to two pounds per inch of diameter up to six inches, and two to four pounds per inch of diameter over six inches.

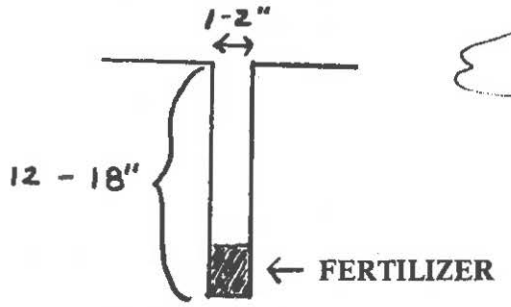
DO NOT APPLY FERTILIZER WITHIN ONE FOOT OF THE TRUNK OF A SMALL TREE OR WITHIN THREE FEET OF THE TRUNK OF A LARGE TREE. Injury to the root collar and trunk base may result.

Liquid fertilizers are used more commonly now and when properly applied below ground, they offer the advantages of immediate availability, more uniform distribution, and less labor involved. Some disadvantages: they are not as long lasting, do not work well in heavy, poorly drained soil, and incorporate no organic matter into the soil.

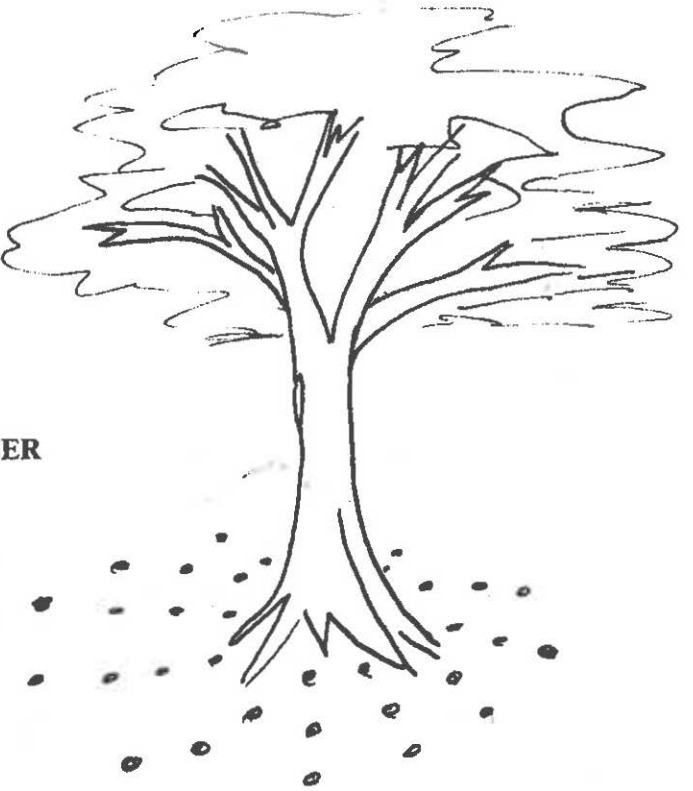
WHAT FERTILIZER TO USE

The chemistry of fertilizers and their reaction with the soil is very complex. Basically, the chemicals supply raw materials for food manufacturing, vegetative growth, flowering, and root development. Nitrogen, phosphorus, and potash are the primary plant foods and are required in the largest amounts. Iron, manganese, copper, boron, molybdenum, zinc, and other minor chemical elements are important secondary plant foods and are needed in small amounts. Florida soils vary greatly, and the amounts of each fertilizer element needed should be properly determined by a soil test. A general fertilizer, adequate for most trees, is a 25% organic 8-8-8 with minor elements included.

Detail of a punch-bar hole, below



Fertilizer applied in punch-bar holes beneath tree canopy (right)



WHEN TO FERTILIZE

Because of the difference in temperature and growing season and the wide variety of trees in Florida, fertilizer applications vary considerably. In north and central Florida, trees should be fertilized in early winter so that the plant food will be available to the roots prior to bud development. Usually, one application a year or one every two years is sufficient for good tree growth. In south Florida, the growing season is practically year round. Very good growth results have been obtained when the yearly total amount of fertilizer is spread out over three applications (March, June, and October).

TREE TYPE	FERTILIZER	METHOD OF APPLICATION	APPLICATION TIME & RATE PER YEAR
HARDWOODS a. Under 6" Dia.	25% organic 8-8-8 with minor elements	Hole Method or Surface Method	Early Winter–2 lbs. per inch of diameter
b. Over 6" Dia.	Same	Same	Early Winter–4 lbs. per inch of diameter
EVERGREENS a. Under 6" Dia.	Same	Same	Early Winter–1 lb. per inch of diameter
b. Over 6" Dia.	Same	Same	Early Winter–2 lbs. per inch of diameter
HARDWOODS IN SO. FLA. a. Under 6" Dia.	Same	Surface Method or Hole Method	March, June & October 2 lbs. per in. of dia.
b. Over 6" Dia.	Same	Same	March, June & October 4 lbs. per in. of dia.
EVERGREENS IN SO. FLA. a. Under 6" Dia.	Same	Same	March, June & October 1 lb. per in. of dia.
b. Over 6" Dia.	Same	Same	March, June & October 2 lbs. per in. of dia.

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Height and Form of Crown	Flower-color (Season)	Fruit or Seed	Yearly growth	Soil preference	Tolerances to: Salt	Tolerances to: Frost	Remarks . . .	Landscape uses – Specimen Tree	Shade Tree	Framing Tree	Border Tree	Patio	Tropical effect	Medians	Street Tree
Broadleaf Evergreens																
Bay, Red (*Persea borbonia*)	to 70′	small, greenish (spring)		2′–3′	fertile	unknown	HARDY	purple-brown bark	X	X		X				
Cherry, Laurel (*Prunus caroliniana*)	to 30′	white (spring)	small fruit	2′–3′	average	medium	HARDY	good median tree			X	X			X	
•Eucalyptus, Silver Dollar (*Eucalyptus cinerea*)	to 30′		seed capsules	over 3′	average	low	sensi-tive	dried folliage used in floral arrangements	X		X					
Holly, American (*Ilex opaca*)	to 50′		red berries (winter)	2′–3′	average	medium	HARDY	Christmas greenery	X		X	X			X	
•Holly, Dahoon (*Ilex cassine*)	to 40′		red berries (winter)	2′–3′	average	medium	HARDY	good framing tree			X					
•Oak, Live (*Quercus virginiana*)	to 60′ spreading		acorns	over 3′	average	medium	HARDY	excellent city tree	X	X						X
Wax Myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*)	to 20′		small waxy berries	2′–3′	moist	HIGH	HARDY	a shrub-like tree, may be sheared as a hedge				X			X	
Deciduous Trees																
•Ash, Green (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*)	to 50′		winged seed	2′–3′	fertile	unknown	HARDY	beautiful dark green foliage	X	X						
Beech, American (*Fagus grandiflora*)	to 80′		seednuts	2′–3′	fertile	unknown	HARDY	does best west of Suwannee River		X		X				
Beech, Blue (*Carpinus caroliniana*)	to 30′		ribbed nutlets	less than 2′	fertile	unknown	HARDY	slow-growing, but a good landscape tree			X	X	X			
•Catalpa (*Catalpa bignonioides*)	to 30′	showy white (early summer)	long seed pods		average	unknown	HARDY	worms that feed of this tree are favorite bream bait	X			X				

•Sometimes grown at Division of Forestry nurseries

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Height and Form of Crown	Flower-color (Season)	Fruit or Seed	Yearly growth	Soil preference	Tolerances to: Salt	Tolerances to: Frost	Remarks . . .	Landscape uses – Specimen Tree	Shade Tree	Framing Tree	Border Tree	Patio	Tropical effect	Medians	Street Tree
Cherry, Black (*Prunus serotina*)	to 100′		small cherries	2′–3′	average	unknown	HARDY	good wildlife tree		X		X				
• Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*)	to 100′			over 3′	fertile	unknown	HARDY	a fast growing shade tree– "cotton" from female trees may be a nuisance in the fall	X							
Elm, Florida (*Ulmus floridana*)	to 50′			2′–3′	average	low	HARDY	nicely shaped lawn tree	X	X						
Elm, Winged (*Ulmus alata*)	to 75′		thin flat seeds	2′–3′	average	unknown	HARDY	a beautiful tree too seldom planted	X	X						X
Ginkgo (*Ginkgo bilboa*)	to 50′			2′–3′	average	unknown	HARDY	plant only male trees, as fruit has an offensive odor	X							X
Hackberry (*Celtis laevigata*)	to 80′		berries	2′–3′	average	unknown	HARDY	an excellent street tree	X	X						X
Hickory, Mockernut (*Carya tomentosa*)	to 70′		hickory nuts	2′–3′	fertile	unknown	HARDY	nuts 1½ to 2½ inches in diameter		X						
Hickory, Pignut (*Carya glabra*)	to 100′		hickory nuts	2′–3′	fertile	unknown	HARDY	bright yellow fall color		X						
Hop-Hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*)	to 30′		ribbed nutlets	less than 2′	fertile	unknown	HARDY	a small tree with an Oriental look	X				X		X	
Mulberry, Red (*Morus rubra*)	to 50′		red and black berries	over 3′	average	unknown	HARDY	an excellent wildlife tree with edible fruits		X						
• Oak, Laurel (*Quercus hemisphaerica*)	to 80′		acorns	2′–3′	average	medium	HARDY	a tall growing oak with lush green foliage	X	X						X
Oak, Shumard (*Quercus shumardii*)	to 100′+		acorns	2′–3′	fertile	unknown	HARDY	a beautiful shade tree too seldom planted	X	X						X

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Oak, Southern Red (*Quercus falcata*)	to 80′		acorns	2′–3′	well-drained	unknown	HARDY	a nice oak for dry sites	X	X						
• Oak, Swamp Chestnut (*Quercus prinus*)	to 80′		acorns	2′–3′	fertile	unknown	HARDY	a large oak with white flaky bark	X	X						
Oak, Water (*Quercus nigra*)	to 75′		acorns	2′–3′	average	unknown	HARDY	a nice oak with a somewhat open crown, but rather short-lived	X	X						
Poplar, Tulip (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)	to 80′	yellow "tulips" (spring)	fruiting cone	2′–3′	fertile	unknown	HARDY	beautiful yellow fall foliage	X	X						
Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*)	to 50′			2′–3′	average	unknown	HARDY	irregular leaves with nice fall color	X			X				
• Sweet Gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)	to 80′		burr-like balls	2′–3′	average	unknown	HARDY	seed balls may be messy on a lawn		X		X				
• Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)	to 100′		woody balls	2′–3′	average	medium	HARDY	very attractive flaky bark	X	X						
• Tupelo Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*)	to 50′+		dark blue seeds	2′–3′	moist	unknown	HARDY	one of the first trees to exhibit fall color	X	X						
Walnut, Black (*Juglans nigra*)	to 70′		walnuts	2′–3′	fertile	unknown	HARDY	does best on fertile clay hills of west Florida	X	X						
Flowering Deciduous																
Crabapple (*Malus angustifolia*)	to 25′	white to pink (spring)	crabapple	less than 2′	fertile	unknown	HARDY	fruit is used in jellies	X			X			X	

• Sometimes grown at Division of Forestry nurseries

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Crape Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*)	to 20′	white, pink purple (mid-sum)		less than 2′	average	unknown	HARDY	blooms almost all summer, bronze-red fall foliage	X			X	X		X	X
• Dogwood, Flowering (*Cornus florida*)	to 50′	white (spring)	red berries	less than 2′	fertile	low	HARDY	beautiful fall color	X			X	X		X	
Fringe Tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*)	to 25′	white (spring)	drupe	less than 2′	fertile	unknown	HARDY	also called "Old Man's Beard"	X			X				
Golden Rain Tree (*Koelreuteria formosana*)	to 35′	yellow (early fall)	rosy papery pods	over 3′	average	low	HARDY	colorful throughout most of the year	X	X		X				
Jerusalem Thorn (*Parkinsonia aculeata*)	to 25′	yellow (spr-sum)	pea pods	less than 2′	average	HIGH	HARDY	branches and twigs are bright green; small sized, has sharp thorns	X				X		X	
Pear, Bradford (*Pyrus calleryana* var. *Bradford*)	to 35′	showy white (early summer)	small, good for wildlife	2′–3′	fertile	unknown	HARDY	a relatively new ornamental for Florida. Good fall foliage color	X			X			X	X
Plum, Chickasaw (*Prunus angustifolia*)	to 30′	white (spring)	shiny plum	less than 2′	average	unknown	HARDY	common along fence rows in North Florida	X			X			X	
• Maple, Red (*Acer rubrum*)	to 60′	red (early spring)	winged seeds	2′–3′	moist	low	HARDY	nice fall color	X	X		X			X	
Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)	to 50′	magenta (early spring)	flat legumes	less than 2′	fertile	low	HARDY	"the harbinger of spring"	X			X			X	
Silverbell (*Halesia diptera*)	to 25′	white bells (spring)	winged seed	less than 2′	fertile	unknown	HARDY	a good free for confined areas	X			X				

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Common Name (Scientific Name)	Height and Form of Crown	Flower-color (Season)	Fruit or Seed	Yearly growth	Soil preference	Tolerances to: Salt	Tolerances to: Frost	Remarks . . .	Landscape uses – Specimen Tree	Shade Tree	Framing Tree	Border Tree	Patio	Tropical effect	Medians	Street Tree
Flowering Evergreens																
• Bay, Loblolly (*Gordonia lasianthus*)	to 50′	white (summer)	capsule	2′–3′	moist	unknown	HARDY	large specimens are difficult to transplant	X		X	X	X		X	
Bay, Sweet (*Magnolia virginiana*)	to 75′	white (early summer)	fruiting cone	2′–3′	moist fertile	unknown	HARDY	leaves silvery beneath	X	X		X				
Magnolia, Southern (*Magnolia grandiflora*)	to 80′	white (early summer)	fruiting cone	2′–3′	fertile	medium	HARDY	large leaves are a problem in lawn care	X	X						
PALMS																
• Cabbage Palm (*Sabal palmetto*)	to 50′			less than 2′	any	HIGH	HARDY	widely used as an avenue tree			X			X	X	X
Date Palm (*Phoenix dactylifera*)	to 100′			less than 2′	average	unknown	HARDY	suckers must be trimmed to produce a single trunk	X				X	X	X	
Needle Palm (*Rhapidophyllum hystrix*)	to 6′			less than 2′	moist	medium	seedlings tender	may not be readily available in nurseries			X		X	X	X	
Pindo Palm (*Butia capitata*)	to 20′		orange fruits	less than 2′	any	medium	HARDY	produces edible date-like fruit	X				X		X	
Washington Palm (*Washingtonia robusta*)	to 60′		black drupes	less than 2′	any	medium	HARDY	fronds are retained on the tree						X	X	X

•Sometimes grown at Division of Forestry nurseries

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Height and Form of Crown	Flower-color (Season)	Fruit or Seed	Yearly growth	Soil preference	Tolerances to: Salt	Tolerances to: Frost	Remarks . . .	Landscape uses – Specimen Tree	Shade Tree	Framing Tree	Border Tree	Patio	Tropical effect	Medians	Street Tree
Conifers																
• Cedar, Southern Red (*Juniperus silicicola*)	to 25′		berry-like cones	2′–3′	average	medium	HARDY	an excellent wildlife tree	X		X	X				
• Cypress, Arizona (*Cupressus arizonica*)	to 60′		small cones	2′–3′	average	medium	HARDY	Christmas tree form	X		X	X				
• Cypress, Bald (*Taxodium distichum*)	to 100′		seed balls	2′–3′	any	medium	HARDY	a conifer with rusty fall color	X				X			
• Pine, Loblolly (*Pinus taeda*)	to 100′+		cones	2′–3′	fertile	medium	HARDY	a fast growing pine	X	X						
• Pine, Sand (*Pinus clausa*)	to 70′		cones	2′–3′	well drained	medium	HARDY	conical shape when young		X		X				
Pine, Shortleaf (*Pinus echinata*)	to 100′		cones	2′–3′	fertile	medium	HARDY	well adapted to clay hills of west Florida		X		X				
• Pine, Slash (*Pinus elliottii*)	to 90′		cones	2′–3′	average	medium	HARDY	dark green foliage	X	X		X				
• Pine, Spruce (*Pinus glabra*)	to 100′		cones	2′–3′	fertile		HARDY	handsome tree with relatively smooth bark	X	X		X				

•Sometimes grown at Division of Forestry nurseries

DOF NURSERY PROGRAM

Each year the Florida Division of Forestry, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, produces upwards of 40 million seedlings at its three nurseries for sale to the general public.

The minimum charge for bare-root stock is the price of 500 seedlings, though as few as 25 can be delivered. Potted stock is priced per tree, and though any number can be ordered, the minimum charge is for 10 trees.

Forms for ordering seedlings, or information and prices for species available in a given year, may be obtained statewide from offices of the Division of Forestry, Agricultural Extension Services, Soil Conservation Service, or Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee.

Orders are accepted beginning July 1 each year. Bare root seedlings are allocated on October 1, so it is best to send in a completed order form by that date. Normally, orders will exceed supplies for some species, in which case orders are prorated among requests on hand as supplies permit.

Orders may be mailed or delivered to the nearest Division of Forestry district office, or to the Division of Forestry, Collins Building, Tallahassee, Florida 32304.

Seedlings may be inspected before you purchase them at the Division nurseries. The Munson Nursery is located at the junction of State Roads 4 and 191 in Santa Rosa County (Route 1, Box 84, Milton 32570); the Andrews Nursery is one mile east of Chiefland just off U.S. 27 (Route 1, Box 141, Chiefland 32626); and the Herren Nursery is located in Highlands County on State Road 70, 1 1/2 miles west of the junction of U.S. 27 (Route 2, Box 142, Lake Placid 33852).

Tallahassee Office

Division of Forestry, Collins Building, Tallahassee, Florida 32304

Addresses of District Offices:

Milton, 1025 Old Bagdad Hwy. S.W., Milton, Florida 32570, (904) 623-3697

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Lake City, Route 7, Box 35, Lake City, Florida 32055, (904) 752-0811

Jacksonville, 8719 W. Beaver Street, Jacksonville, Florida 32220, (904) 781-1434

Gainesville, 1600 N.E. 23rd Avenue, Gainesville, Florida 32601, (904) 377-7660

Ocala, P.O. Box 1569, Ocala, Florida 32670, (904) 622-7148

Bunnell, Route 1, Box 20 F, Bunnell, Florida 32010, (904) 445-2488

Brooksville, 7275 U.S. 41 North, Brooksville, Florida 33512, (904) 796-5650

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Lakeland, 5745 S. Florida Avenue, Lakeland, Florida 33803, (813) 646-2959

Bradenton, 4723 53rd Avenue, East, Bradenton, Florida 33508, (813) 756-7343

Okeechobee, Route 2, Box 200, Okeechobee, Florida 33472, (904) 763-2191

Ft. Myers, Route 14, Box 258, Tice, Florida 33905, (813) 694-2181

Ft. Lauderdale, 3315 S.W. College Avenue, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33314, (305) 584-9200

HOW TO PLANT A TREE –

The first few days after you bring a tree home are the most important . . . these guidelines will help you give the young tree its best possible start:

Aim your efforts at the PLANTING . . . successful planters spend two to ten times as much on the planting as on the plant!

Dig the planting hole larger than the tree's root system, setting the good top soil aside. Mix this top soil half-and-half with peat.

For potted or balled-earth seedlings, add no more than ½ pound of organic fertilizer that is no stronger than 6-6-6. Do NOT fertilize bare-root seedlings or conifers for at least 30 days!

When planting potted or balled-earth seedlings, you may add up to half a pound of organic fertilizer no stronger than 6-6-6. Be sure it is well mixed with the soil and the planting hole is flooded with water.

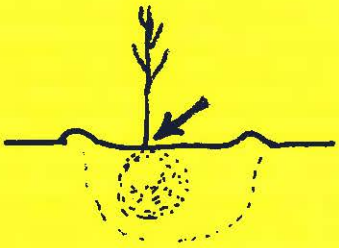
Different fertilization procedures apply when planting bare-root seedlings, including conifers. DO NOT use fertilizer at planting time. Wait at least 30 days, and then if the soil is of very low fertility, fertilize all seedlings except conifers three times during the first year with organic fertilizer no stronger than 6-6-6. Thereafter, follow procedures for established trees in the Fertilizer section of this book.

Conifers normally should not be fertilized at all during their first year of growth. In cases where the soil is extremely alkaline, however, you may need to fertilize lightly the first year with an acid-forming fertilizer to create favorable growing conditions. After conifers are established and growing well, follow fertilization procedures outlined for established growing trees.

Do not let the roots of any seedling dry out . . . if you cannot plant quickly, keep the seedling shaded and moistened. You can water bare-root seedlings by pouring water into the packet and laying it roots down on a small slope to allow drainage from the bottom.

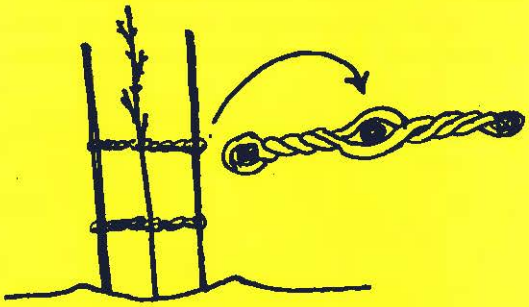
A pot-grown seedling may develop spiral roots around the outer portions of the ball. On opposite sides of such plants, cut the spiralling roots vertically, disturbing the soil no more than necessary.

Plant the seedling at the same depth as it grew in the nursery, refilling the hole with the previously mixed top soil and peat. Pack the soil firmly and thoroughly water.



A tall seedling may require assistance to hold a too-limber stem upright. Drive a long stake on each side of the seedling and tie the stem to both stakes with single tie-strips of cloth, rubber inner tube or hose-covered wire. The tie should allow the stem to flex in the wind and permit a tapered stem to develop. A very tall plant will need several ties. Take extra care to prevent any possible damage to the bark structure, but do allow for the wind motion. Plan on removing the ties and stakes when the tree has become wind-resistant and can adequately support itself.

Water frequently until the tree is well established. A small temporary basin or saucer-like depression in the soil will retain the water over the tree's root system. Bark or peat mulch will help prevent rapid drying of the soil, improving moisture retention.



If there is a surrounding lawn that is receiving stronger fertilizers, remain clear of the tree's root system to prevent "burning." Conifer seedlings are particularly susceptible to fertilizer burn caused by concentrations of such substances.

This public document was promulgated at a cost of $14,127.64 or $0.15 per copy to provide the citizens of Florida information concerning the selection and functions of trees suitable for planting around homes, and was published by the Florida Division of Forestry in cooperation with the USDA-Forest Service Southeast Area.

F78G38

January, 1979

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